

THE BEHOLDER

#10

(double figure, hey?)

Vecch. What a lousy letterhead. Randolph, now I know how you felt about your letterheads when you looked at them on the master.

This is the (flip, flip, find out what the deadline date is) (event) December 15, 1979 issue of The Beholder, a zine devoted to postal chess (and I'm never going to put what goes in here again) and sadistically published by that infamous tyro, John Kelley, Box 35, Klickitat, WA 98981 USA. Telephone # is (509)-369-4332, and only Treticks call at 000-00-1111.

Diplomacy games are currently open, and I have four openings in Worpleganger for \$3 and one in Hippogriff. To play in a game, one must pay my 30¢/issue subscription fee, plus the gamefee. I am the gamesmaster for all games currently played herein, which are 1977-AG, 1978-E, HD, 1979-CG, ~~MX~~ HZ (Cockatrice), and IA (~~Eulster~~ Bulette). A subscriber is invited to join my standby list which enables him to take over discontinued positions. Let's see: my standby list ~~is~~ currently includes Russon, Van Alkemade, Watson, Cusack, Ashley, Hickey, Kreissl, Gibson, Kelly, and Masters. Thanks to Bernie for the BNs.

This zine is going to have to undergo some changes. First, after this issue, I want the subzine publishers (the new one is Laurence Gillespie) to please keep their parts to 1½ pages. I hate to curtail you, guys, but I like to write a little too. I think Laurence will be glad to take care of the labour of seeing that D&D doesn't disappear from this zine totally.

Yes, Tom, I'd like to buy those back issues from you. I'm interested in: Bhh #1-29, 33-35, DD #18, Ruri #1-44, #45-53. If you wish I will re-imburse you in sub credit, or with cash.

Our football team finished the season with a 6-3 record. Overall, I had a lot of fun as a third-string lineman. Atleast they let me play JV.

Just got VOB #3. That Bruce is really doing well. By the way, Bruce, would you like to room together at Dipcon if I go? (No, I'm not old enough to drink, so I'll be content with Sprite.) I consider myself a fair Frisbee thrower, so...

I'm typing this up on 1 December 79, so I can try out the repro on my new paper. (I'm using buff now; we'll see how it works.)

Consarned ditto machine anyhow. I already had p. 2 typed up (it was an article by me), and decided to test the buff with it. It was a little better than the other, but suddenly the ~~upper~~ paper got all purple! I played mechanic for about 15 minutes while trying to detect the cause, and found that my roller was all gunked up. So I made a purple mess ~~in~~ cleaning it (and myself) up. Uh, Lee, how much does a good mimeo machine cost?...

So my p. 2 master is spoiled; I'll have to re-type it. Hijo-de-unacaramera. (Anyone wishing to know the meaning of some of my Spanish phrases can write and I'll tell you in a personal letter.)

Now, I've got to fill the remaining space with something. Oh yeah, Bruce Linsey, 71 Hudson Terrace Apts, Newburgh, NY 12550 is the new IDA Novice packet Director. I think he'll make a good one. Birsan won the IDA prez election 16-4. Fine with me-Birsan knows what he's doing.

I'll cut this page off here and check it out on the machine. If I ruin the master, I'll kill myself.

How many of you non-GMs have ever wondered what it was like to be a P.D. GM? I know I did, ere I turned publisher. Well, here you go.

Why does someone start a zine? With me, it was just an urge. I wanted to, so I did. Some want a vehicle to do some writing. I guess some are in it for the money, or to see how many zines they can trade with. I pity those kind, for publishing is really not a get-rich-quick deal. Not counting gamefees, I must have made almost the staggering sum of \$2.00 by now. If all you want is dinero, don't start.

Repro is always a worry. For the Michalskis who have cheap-to-free xeroxes, it's a snap; but for us peons who use ditto or mimeo, it gets to be a question of legibility. A publisher is aware of the slightest flaw in his repro and if it gets too bad, he's ashamed to mail it. The ultimate nightmare is having game reports turn out all sloshed up.

Yes, you get a lot of orders from people. (Game orders). Some apes don't put down all the necessary info, or write orders like A Edi-Nor, F Nth C A Edi-Nor, F Ngw S A Edi-Nor. (That's an on purpose typo.) This happened, and I had to allow it, on account of the unambiguous interpretation rule. Some GMs (most notably me) have deep-seated phobias about players all getting together and quitting the game, or the standby list, or even protesting violently. It gets so (for me, anyway) paranoid that you are actually afraid to open letters from some people, and feel great relief when nothing is up. GMs hate NMRs, because standbys dislike being overworked, (I do as a standby) and are a precious commodity. If you can standby often and cheerfully, the GMs will beat a path to your door.

Phone calls are the best thing about it. I love just rapping with someone, be he fellow GM, player, or subscriber-normally-silent (in the Ralph Morton tradition). Makes my day. Call me sometime, if you want to see your GM's life happier.

Starting publishing (the mechanics of it) is rough. I had trouble finding anyone who wanted this thing once upon a time (doggone that Bruce Linsey anyway! (90 subbers, on issue #2)), and then a person named Trevor Baillie sent me a cheque for \$8.50 (\$10, Canadian), which made me feel great. Just think, I had a skill that could be marketed, on a very small scale. Many new GMs start out with radical policies, and gradually melt into the mainstream.

A few very lucky young publishers (me among them) trip over someone who welcomes them to the ranks, gives helpful advice, and in general makes himself well-liked. Soem have been known to send out address label masters, and other make-life-easier things and ideas. In my case, this person was John Michalski, and had it not been for him I might have copped out. But constant encouragement and exhortations to be prompt, etc., did wonders.

Sample requests are sort of a dolor-de-cola, unless the person is a) so inexperienced he doesn't know playing involves subscribing; b) considerate enough to send a stamp or even a SASE. Amazes me how many will do neither, as if it's my solemn duty as a publisher to throw away my money. Note: This is NOT a knock on some of you, but a true-to-life revelation of what it's like. No offense intended.

For me, adjudication is an enjoyable activity. I LIKE following all these games, seeing alliance patterns change, and games with full sets of orders. I hate making errores (although as long as a player doesn't yell at me about them, am glad to correct them) in the mechanics of adjudication. (Not counting executive decisions).

Also, every time the zine is late, one gets a tidal wave of letters saying Where's TB? Where's TB?, saying they didn't get their issue, and you send them another one, etc.

But, for me anyway, it's a great hobby at times like this. In a bad mood, I might not have as many nice things to say about it.

And now I present you with my analysis of 1979-E. JM's first ten-day deadline game. The players at start were Randy Christopher-F, Jack Frost-A, Bill Shaffer-E, Uli Baumeister-T, Dave Pilant-I, Dave Grabar-R, and John Kador-G.

Pregame situation: Well, there was certainly some pregame animosity between Shaffer and Frost, presumably from another game.

Pre-SOI diplomacy: Austria made friendly noises toward Turkey, who was (in Jack's terms) bombarding him with negotiation, but planned to wipe him out (seeing that he had taken the greatest interest in the game) and therefore negotiated a DMZ with Italy. Russia was in disagreement with Turkey over the Black Sea, saying that a bounce was a good way to insure trust, while Turkey seemed to disagree at first, then acceded. Russia told both Turkey and Austria he was going after the other. Turkey wrote to everyone (which might bear out Frost's suspicions that his interest in this game was acute) asking for cooperation, and planned a quick stab of Russia in conjunction with Austria. He also tried to convince Germany that Russia intended an attack on him. Italy wanted a GAI alliance and also told Germany of an impending R attack. And Russia wanted everyone's support into Rum. Kador was expecting a F-E war, and wanted news about Frech intentions. As it turned out, F-G correspondence was almost totally one-sided, which would seem to indicate that France wasn't all that interested in the game. I have little of his correspondence to go on, and ditto for England. All I know about his 1901 intentions comes from a friendly letter to Germany, wanting to choose between G-F.

Spring 1901:

A(Frost): F Tri-Alb, A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Bud.

E(Shaffer): A Lpl-Yor, F Lon-Nth, F Edi-Nwg.

F(Christopher): F Bre-Mid, A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur.

G(Kador): F Kie-Den, A Mun-Ruh, A Ber-Sil.

I(Pilant): F Nap-Tyh, A Ven-Pie, A Rom H.

R(Grabar): F StP(sc)-Bot, A Mos-StP, A War-Gal, F Sev-Bla.

T(Baumeister): F Ank-Bla, A Smy-Arm, A Con-Bul.

Well, A-I friendliness is evident. Turkey is after Russia, Russia stabbed Austria and moved anti-England, and France apparently mistrusted Germany. Black Press was voted yes on, and for this reason I can't really take seriously any of it. Germany did as he said.

Diplomacy prior to Fall 1901: Ah, I'll save until next time. Any suggestions from more experienced commentators on how to do it right?!

Also, Rod's analysis will not appear this issue. Because the purpose of the game is not to have the commentary affect the game, but to review it. And since HZ is now on 33 day deadlines (which may be shortened later) I have to slow TB down every once in a while to let it catch up, now see if you can make heads or tails out of that sentnece. I promise you'll get it next time. And by the way, Rod, could you try to keep it to a page and a half? Thanks. So far Berch and Gibson have commented on it-I just might print the letters in TKDB, if space permits. Yes, you two, you'll get copies if that happens.

I think I'll have the heads of some telephone workers on a platter. Bob called the other day, and those jerks cut us off! Snarl..

Hey, com'on, how come nobody wants to sign up for the Bling game? I have six signups (of which let's see, 1, 2, 3 of you haven't paid your \$2, and I will NOT put you in without it!

And now, I announce the start of openings in a new game! It is invitational, just like the Fol Si Fie invitational, and is designated Illithid. (Dungeon masters who use the modules from TSR know that that is Drowic for mind player.)

(I think I'm at the bottom of the page; I'll describe Illithid on the next page.)

Any subscriber interested in this game can send in \$5.00 US (that's the gamefee) and an autobiographical description. If you make it, I cash the cheque(or whatever, but no one send Malaysian seashell money, ok?); if you don't, I do as you instruct with it.

I will choose subjectively (blatant plagiarism, eh, Randolph?), based on: geographical distribution, playing skill/experience, past record of reliability, past contributions, personality in general. The deadline for entries is the first of February (ah, I never said I could spell). Don't be shy and think that just because you're a novice you aren't likely to make it; your chances are excellent, considering my usual rate of gamefill these days (which suits me fine normally, but not here). Come on! If you want in, don't be afraid to try at least!

Please, fellow publishers, don't plug this. If a person isn't a subscriber getting this on time, it may be too late by the time it's pulgged.

Yes, Randolph, I retract about FSF being a gallant old lady with steel pins in a broken hip trying to die quietly.

Let's see now. I'm under the weather right now with a sore throat, (come on, I don't see any crocodile tears out there) and if I don't shut up soon, I won't have enough space for the games. Bob's subzine won't see daylight this time, but Laurence's will. If I use pages 8 and 9 for it, 4 pages should be plenty for 5 games. So I give you

THE GAMES:

1977-AG, Spring 1907: GM MAKES RULING THAT HOPEFULLY NO ONE WILL HODDER ABOUT! DON'T BOTHER, BECUASE I AM ADAMANT!!

England (Ron Kelley (sorry Ron, you understand)): F Nth S F Nwy, F Nwy S F Nth.

France (~~CLAUDE DALLIDA~~): NMR: A's Kie, Ruh, Bur, Gas, F's Por, Iri, Eng H, F Mid H/a/(I quote the Rulebook: "unordered units hold in CD").

Italy (François Guerrier): F Naf-Mid, A Nap-Rom, A Ven-Rom, F Mar H, F Spa^(sc)

Russia (R. Trevor Baillie): F Den-Nth, F Swe-Nwy, A Lva-StP, A Ber-Sil.

Turkey (Randolph Smyth): A War-Pru, A Smy-Apu, F Aeg C A Smy-Apu, F Ion C A Smy-Apu, A Con-Bul, F Tun-Tyh, F Wes S Italian F Naf-Mid, F Lyo S Italian F Spa(sc), F Tri H, A Pie-Tyo, A Bud-Vie, A Mun S Italian A Mar-Bur/nso/ A Sil S A Mun, A Mos-StP, A Sev-Mos.

Fall 1907 is due 26 Jan 79. The extra two weeks are to allow for the holiday Rush.

Yes, Gautron is O-U-T, out. I got no sub money or orders from him, and no money-no zine (no leniency), no zine-no play. Werner Kreissl, could you please play France? His address should be in the sub list.

1978-E, Fall 1907: ITALY MASTER OF EUROPE!!

England (Robert Acheson): F Nwg-Nat, A Edi-Lpl, F Cly S A Edi-Plp. ((Lpl))

Germany (Tony Watson): NMR: A Kie, F Dan H, F Hol H/a/.

Italy (Blair Cusack): A Gal-War, A Bud-Rum, F Bul(sc)-Aeg, A Con-Bul, A Ser S A Bud-Rum, F Gre S A Con-Bul, A Tri-Tyo, A Vie S A Tri-Tyo, A Ruh-Hol, A Bel S A Ruh-Hol, F Eng-Nth, A Lon H, F Wal S F Lpl, A Pic-Bur, F Nat-Cly, F Lpl S F Nat-Cly.

Russia (John Masters): F Ska-Nwy, A War-Gal/nsu/, A Mun-Bur, A Boh-Mun, F Bla S Turkish A Smy-Con, A Alb-Tri/nsu/, A Rum Holds prayer meeting/excommunicated, ret-Sev, Ukr, OTB.

Congratualtions, Blair boy. Engame comments are welcome from all.

John Masters, you misunderstand my rule about unordered units. In this zine, CD is nonexistent as a permanent state; only when a unit recieved no order does it hold in temporary CD, and if dislodged is annihilated. Any,

May, even if you'd a had those units, Blair would still have won. Now, Tony, you know you're supposed to submit standby orders when asked. However, since you moved, and I think you simply overlooked the call accidentally in #9, I don't think it's fair to kick you off. And here we go, Bernie, with something for your benefit:
 1978-E. Arrakis, (to S'06), The Beholder. Doug Hayward (to S06), John Kelley. A: Alan Hansell (dro FO2), Ron Kelly (out W06). E: Mark Kimbush (dro W04), Bob Acheson. F: Duane Skuce (out W04). G: Ron Shea (res W01), Jan Jensen (dro S07), Tony Watson. Italy: Blair Cusack (win FO7). Re Dave Head (dro S07), John Masters. T: Mike Minicola (dro W03), Barry Hickey.

Final Centre chart:

E(2): Edi, StP, ~~Wwy~~. Remove 1.
 C(2): Kie, den, ~~Boh~~, ~~Bel~~, ~~Naf~~. Even.
 I(20!): Home, France, Austria, Tun, Ser, Spa, Por, Lpl, ~~Bel~~, Gre, Rum, Lon, War, Bel, Hol, build 4, wins!
 Russ(6): Sev, Mos, Ber, Mun, Swe, ~~Kaa~~, ~~Wes~~, ~~Naf~~, Nwy. Build 1.
 T(3): Ank, Smy, Con. Build one.

And a bit of final press:

Rome-Ankara: For your persistence at least, I owe you Constantinope Back. Well done, Barry.

Mind Flayer: Blair's right. You've stuck with this terrible position through thick and than, and deserve credit. Thanks.

And, finally, here's the yearly centre chart:

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
A	3	1	2*	1	1	0	-
E	4	4	5	4	3	3	2
F	4	3	2	0	-	-	-
G	5	6	7	6	5	5	2
I	6	8	9	14	16*	16	20
R	6	6	6	7	8*	8	6
T	4	5	3	2	1	2	3

Note now in spots the little guys balled back from 1-centre positions to even #3. Also, Blair got six in 1901; one must of been Tri, one Mar, one Tun.
 One down, six to go!
 * = one short after winter.

??

1978-HB, Winter 1905/Spring 1906:

Winter: Austria NRR, NRR; A War ret-OTB, GM removes (by random draw) A Boh, A Alb; France bids F Mar, A Par, Turkey builds A Ank, A Con, F Smy.

Spring:

Austria ((Jim Lynch): NMR! A's Vie, Sil, F's Tyh, Ion H.

France (Tom Mirti): F Nth-Nwg, F Bel-Nth, A Hol-Kie, A Bur S A Gas-Mar, A Gas-Mar, A Par-Pic, F Mar-Lyo, F Lyo-Tus, F Mid-Wes, F Naf S F Mid-Wes.

Germany (Jerry Jones): NMR! A's Ber, Kie, Ruh, Mun, F's Den, Swe all H.

Italy (Randolph Smyth): NMR! A's Tyo, Pie, F's Rom, Tun H.

Turkey (Tom Thorsen): A Rum-Gal, A War S A Rum-Gal, A Con-Bul, A Ank-Rum, F Bla C A Ank-Rum, A Pru S A War, A Mos-Ukr, A StP H, F Gre H, F Smy-Eas.

Deadline for Fall 1906 is 26 Jan 79. Could Peter Ashley (address in the list) please standby for Austria? I don't think Randolph will NMR again, (by the way, Blair, thanks for the unused standby orders!) and Jerry wrote to express that he's still palying, but sent no Spring orders! He asked for a separation, but gave no reason; therefore I compromised by going ahead with the season (whether he submitted orders is irrelevant for that purpose), and keeping him in on his word. There are calls for GIFT & FAGT draws. NVR=abstention. No room for the press and other stuff right here, so I'll put it on the next page.

Yes, here's that HD piece.

Mind Player: Here's a piece from Jim. Each one is only as good as the place as good a place as any to type it.

"Please accept my apologies for my impetuous action. I just wish that I acted in haste and in error, without regard to you or your office as a publisher.

So hasty, in fact, was my reaction to the appearance of Larry Green in the last issue that I forgot completely about your previous reply via post card.

This haste, however, does not justify the crude abuse which I subjected you to. I guess there is truth to the saying, "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game", and I thank you for the lesson you've taught me.

I would like to request that you make this public via the next issue of The Beholder. ((Typos are mine, as usual))

Mind Player: Forgiven and forgotten. And I've been a little bit angry recently, in what I say in the zine and in a letter. I'm sorry too.

Munich: The German government was pleased to note the presence of French units protecting Belgium and Holland. How close though?

Berlin: The German Softball Team. The (Hans) Selmer, played for Germany this year when they go on the road to play the Austrian team. Among how the Turkish players, The Con Men, made out so well against the Austrian players the German consolation (??) is going for many years.

Pasadena: An explanation is in order. In the Fall 1977, I was intentional. Germany could gain nothing but hope. I was a good action when the other countries sought me as good pickles. I was in Prussia and Bob Beardsley said that my unit had no place to go but it did, Berlin. I called Bob at this time and told him of the situation. He said that he would delay (separate the seasons) and I gave him the order: E A Pru ret Ber. He then transferred the game and the game results were a combined season and having me as KMRing again. I heard of this (from Tom) but to this day I have never seen these results. I asked Bob if there was some way he could talk to John Kelley and get me back into the game. He said yes, and here I am.

I paid my money just like everyone else did in this game. I am just as much right to play Germany as others have to play their country. John was just a middle man in this external game and has nothing to say about concerning my reinstatement. That was Bob's decision.

I hope that there are no instilled hard feelings. There shouldn't be. We are just seven playing a game. Let's continue as good as.

Mind Player: No, there are no hard feelings on my part. Let's consider this matter closed, and get on with the game.

1979-IA and 1979-CG: Nick apparently didn't get (or read) and the last issue. So these games are due 26 Jan 79. Sorry, I keep having legitimate excuses to delay the game. (By the way, your request was not a factor! You gave no reason to delay the game, and had it not been for Nick's dilemma CG would have gone ahead.) I have orders on file in CG from everyone but Nick, and in IA from everyone but Nick. Our beautiful postal services....

By the way, Clive's back at 2402 Edenhurst, Kensington, CA 94115. And until 2 Jan 79, Markus is back at 2743 SE 85th, Portland, OR 97206 then he's back at school. (the Corvallis address.)

I'm afraid even Laurence's column won't make this move, let alone the fact that I'm printing an address list. Sorry, LG.

Yes, this is the promised address list. The address listed for Markus is his permanent address. (after 2 Jan)

1. Garry Fairbairn, CP Room 502, 315 North Ave., SE, Calgary, Alta T2G 0W2.
2. Jim Atchley, local.
3. Dan Shaddock, local.
4. John Michalski, rt. 10 Box 5260, Moore, Okla. 73165.
5. Andy Lischett, 3025 N. Davlin Ct, Chicago, IL 60618.
6. Nick Russon, #553-2503 Hurontario St., Mississauga, Ont. L5A 2G7.
7. R. Trevor Baillie, 5410 Garland place, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1E4.
8. Curt Gibson, c/o A-4, 176 Lexington, New York, NY 10016.
9. Francois Guerrier, 2210-160 Chapel St., Ottawa, Ont. K1H 8P5.
10. Dave Grabar, 12861 Ave. 184, Chowchilla, CA 93610.
11. Bob Albrecht, 2308-9 Ave N., Lethbridge, Alta. T1H 1J5.
12. Ralph L. Morton, 173 Irving Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 1Z6.
13. Bruce Linsey, 71 Hudson Terrace Apt., Hightstown, NJ 08520.
14. Steve Colombo, #1007-6200 Easthurst St., Willowdale, Ont.
15. Clive Tonge, 2402 Edenhurst, Mississauga, Ont. L5A 2K9.
16. Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakerfield, CA 93304.
17. Greg Costikyan, 1675 York Ave., NYC, NY 10028.
18. Jay & Nick Chambers, 2484 San Marcos, Las Vegas, NV 89110.
19. Jerry Van Alkenude, 110 Sheffield Dr., Racine, WI 53402.
20. Dave Carter, 118 Horeham Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2H 1R9.
21. Bill LaFosse, 126 Bay St., Apt. 24, Trenton, Ont. K9V 1H6.
22. Markus Rostig (after 2Jan), 237 Wilson Hall, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331.
23. Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130.
24. David MacFarlane, 18 Algonquin Cres., Aurora, Ont.
25. Blair Cusack, 1620-42nd St., SW, Calgary, Alta T3C 1K5.
26. Tony Watson, 1481 S. Palm, #207, Las Vegas, NV 89104.
27. Werner Kreissl Jr., 4952 Bossborough, Montreal, Que. H4V 2B5.
28. Bernadette Agosta, 14 Shadyside, Dumont, NJ 07628.
29. Ron Kelly, 605B Richmond Highway, Suite 314, Alexandria, VA 22305.
30. Dennis and Elaine Salsberger, Box 65, Climbing Hill, IL 51015.
31. Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner St., Pasadena, CA 91107.
32. Laurence Gillespie, 25 Robert Allen Dr., Halifax, NS B3M 3B9.
33. Randolph Smyth, 275-3dr St SE, Medicine Hat, Alta T1A 0G4.
34. Rod Walker, 'alcala', 1273 Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024.
35. Doug Warfel, 44 Marie Ave., Monahan, PA 17545.
36. John Masters, 25711 W. Vista Fairways Dr., Valencia, CA 91355.
37. Mark Berch, 492 Haylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304.
38. Jan Lynch, 1350 Glove Rd., Staten Island, NY 10301.
39. Tom Marti, 942 W 34th St, #109, Los Angeles, CA 90007.
40. Lou Wojcik, 83 Madison St, Pequannock, NJ 07440.
41. Tom Thronsen, 41 4th St., Hicksville, NY 11801.
42. Dave Weatherhead, 386 Browndale Cres., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4B 3A4.
43. Ailer Barwick, 7808 Hanover Parkway, #1-2, Greenbelt, ID 20770.
44. Victor Dupont, 24 Old Manaronech Rd., White Plains, NY 10603.
45. R. Russ Fugh, 2693 Morrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17604.
46. Denver McLeod, 215 S. Marango, Apt. A, Pasadena, CA 91101.
47. Robert Goldberg, 16634 Hanbury Ct., Fresno, CA 93726.
48. Lee Kender St., 4547 Bonner Ln., Philadelphia, PA 19135.
49. Peter J. J. J., 6587 N. Lakeview, Chicago, IL 60626.
50. John J. J., 1111 N. York, NY.
51. Barry J. J., 1111 N. York, NY.
52. Dave J. J., 1111 N. York, NY.
53. Bob J. J., 1111 N. York, NY.
54. John J. J., 1111 N. York, NY.

Surprise! I do have room for Rod's analysis, and can't print it anyway because the HZ deadline has not yet passed. Darn-darn-darn. But I CAN print two responses to his SOI analysis. First, the illustrious Mark Berch:

"I do not agree with Rod Walker that in the Cockatrice game, A Ven-Tyo, A Vie-Tyo was certainly prearranged. Indeed, while its quite possible, I don't even think it's likely. From Austria's point of view, a standoff in Tri is Much better as a double cross by Italy in 'Cockatrice would have A Ven-Tri, very damaging. By contrast, the standoff in Tri, if Italy betrays, gives only A Ven. A Tyo ((is)) not as good a position. Also, A Ven-Tri looks more fearsome to other players than does A Rom-Apu, A Ven-Tyo, and this is more likely to fool people. If Aus did agree to that Tyo standoff, he took a considerable---and unnecessary risk.

"Italy's moves are not all that ⁱⁿ common. They are the basis for the so-called "superpower" I-A alliance against R-T. Italy moves A Ven-Tyo-Boh, and that A Boh is used to help A against R, even as the Austrian fleet helps I against T. Second, it can be used as part of a sneak attack on either G or A, as A Rom-Apu is camouflage for Italy's true intentions."

((JK here: very astute. I am unable to speak on this, as its GM, so We'll see what Curtis Gibson has to say. It will be interesting to see if Curt comes up with any more alternatives, eh guys?))

So: here he is, in the flesh, Curtis Gibson:

"Most of Walker's analysis was ok, tho he was a littl too sure about some things. His main fault I'd guess is re Germany. I'll guess tt Ger. does OK. Ger wl likely dbl on War, & keep Mun too, as F really wants Bel, unless there's a F-R alliance. There's about equal chances tt R wl use 2, 1, or 0 for War, so 2/3 chance tt G. takes it. But if R uses 2, it gives up Bla S. & doesn't get Rum, so wl still have no bld. I think R is t one in trouble, & expect G. 2 bld, RC."

((MF: I'll keep the subbers in suspense until next time as to whether Curt was right. Sorry to butt in, here, but I couldn't resist.))

"So, wi E 2 bld, & F 3. G. is in for a hard time, but wi enuf strength to persuade E or F to ally wi G vs. t other, as I think E & F are now neutral, not allied, & wd not be surprised if F & G are actually allies, wch wd be t logical justification for G's start.

"Besides those 2 doubts re Walker's analysis, I have one other. I think T & Ger must be allies, & T wl get Sev in '02. And t Lepanto is too slow to accomplish much if T expects it. Thus T wl expect, & tell It. it's no use trying it.

"A 4th possible oversight by RW: A F-It plan to take Mun, & no A-It alliance. Because Baillie is such a clever player, & a vet. of many games, as Austria, & I wd half think he used -Tyo to foil t common It. attack. And because A seldom uses Vie-Tyo (I've seen it only 1 or 2 times in t hundreds of games I've seen) it is a smart F-I attack on Mun."

((Now, I can talk. Yes, Baillie is an expert; one of the best, from what I've seen. Yes, A Tyo-Vie(reverse that!) is rare. But I tand to agree with Rod, from what I've seen. What I saw, that you didn't, was the press for that reason. I saw a piece from an Italian dateline there, saying that he was glad Gormany had written. Knowing the G-I players, and that they already knew each other, I don't think a F-I attack on Mun was likely. I favour the pre-arranged standoff idea of Rod's here.))

((And Andy checked in with this. I hope he won't mind me putting it here, instead of the press section in TKDB, where it belongs, but if I put it here he'll have more company. Hope it's ok, Andy.))

"Black analysis:

Did I (Germany) agree to this analysis stuff? If so, I must indeed by ((that's my typo there; should be r'bs')) incompetent. Why is it "obvious" that I'd made "strong overtures" toward Russia? Are all my negotiations being routed through Rod Walker? No, that can't be the answer, because I never made any such strong overtures. Why is a massive attack called a massive stab? Usually in the early game years, players unfamiliar with each other are very uneasy about their new allies, so right here with the Spring '01 orders Rod has announced without any knowledge of treaties or negotiations or me, that Germany can't be trusted and is incompetent. Terrific.

"For the information of my allies and enemies, I put all my eggs in one basket because England and France (in alphabetical order) promised not to bother the other bsaket. If I'd made "strong overtures" to Russiaa, would he have ordered A Mos to hold? Russia's troubles should be blamed on Russia's orders, and not on a fictitious stab (or perhaps I hypnotized him into amking those Fall orders).

"Long-range prediction: scratch the analysis."

Mind Flayer: I think the problem causing all that frothing at the mouth is that Rod's just a tad bit sure of himself in places. If I may suggest, Rod, you might oughta start saying 'might' and 'I think' more often when there's an alternative that could be behind something. Andy, you're being a little rough, I say. If you two both bend a little, things will work out.

AHALFPAGETOGOINTHISISSUEANDICANTTHINKOFANYTHINGGOODTOSAYHERESOKILLJUSTSIT

Ah! Thought of something. Do some of you non-D&Ders wonder what my game names mean? Here you go. A Bulette is a weird cross between a giant snapping turtle and giant armadillo with infusions of demon's ichor, and terribly fierce. Cockatrices are like a flying rooster who can turn things to stone by touch. Doppelgangers are creatures who can change to any roughly man-shaped bipedal creature they observe. Ettins are two-headed orcish giants. Faeries (not that, Rod) are Gray Elves, the most magical and intelligent of the elves. Gargoyles are savage, winged, horned, taloned, fanged creatures basically man-shaped and knowing no fear. Hippogriffs are a horse with an eagle's beak, front claws in place of front hooves, and wings. And of course, an Illithid is Dark Elven for mind flayer, a horrid, basically man-shaped creature with four tentacles in place of a mouth with which it drains out human brains with relish, and eats them. The little picture on the back depicts an Illithid. Their skin is purple and they are very wicked, and consider humankind as cattle to feed upon. Based on cruel experiments in my dungeons, seven men are needed to fight one illithid. Every time I sick mind flayers on people I get an insane, Mansonic gleam in my eyes, I'm told.

REFLECTIONS ON TEN MONTHS OF PUBLISHING

This is my first Christmas as a publisher. I think this zine has seen bad times and good, but all my subscribers are like a big family. All of you have seen me depressed, irrational, fanatical, calm, scared stiff, and joyful. You know me well by now, and I know many of you. And it's been a good ten months, getting established, learning the ins and outs of the trade, meeting such pillars of the hobby as Michalski, Kendter and Walker, and knowing all of you. So, from the bottom of my heart, have a happy holiday season. (And send a picture!)

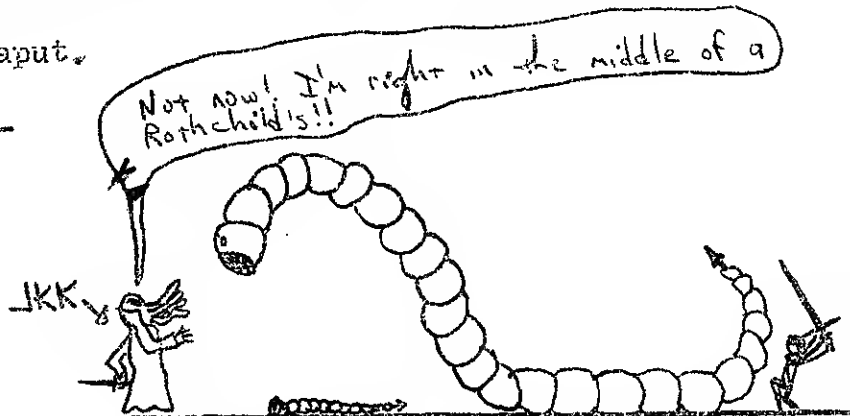
Of course. I am going to revise a houserule. NO MORE ANONYMOUS NEUTRAL ORDERS. Period. This is irrevocable. I made a gross error in trying a new idea, which made most sets of moves so good that the best strategy was a NMR. So let's drop the whole subject. And no, I'm not going to reprint the houserules next time, and am so sick of fudging with them that I'm giving strong consideration to just saying the heck with it. Here's a summary of my weird procedures; no pref lists, all draw votes are anonymous and NVR is an abstention, you must submit a GOOD reason for wanting season separation, no nasty protests, no tricking the GM. No coastal creep, no leniency with sub lapses, no joint orders, contingency orders, codewords, perpetual orders, and I grade pretty hard on order legibilityx and easiness-of reading, flying in the face of the Rulebook, Black press ok, but no more than 12 lines per game per issue, orders on different sheets for different games, on one side of paper only, no Tretick cronies or such like, if you submit press you do so realizing that I reserve the right to ignore whatever press I want (getting mad over failure to print press is ridiculous!). I always combine Winter/Spring unless there is a good reason not to, no BP irritating to me, you MUST MUST MUST include game name, country, date, season, and signature (first name will be ok if easily recognizable as yours). I use standbys who get \$1.50 (except traders) for answering the call, I confiscate dproout's accounts, if a voted draw and win occur simultaneously the win happens, and no nutty concessions to weird places. How's that?!

And of course, I must wish each and every one of you a VERY Merry

Christmas. My best to all w. families and friends.
You know, I think I'd like to change the code numbers to chemical symbols of the elements. It might help me remember them. Feedback?

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_____ Your sub account is kaput.
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see page _____
Code number G-36
you are hereby asked to apply for
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